Novacon 33 Read Me!

This publication gives you all the information we think you'll need whilst you are at Novacon 33. If you require further information about eating out a leaflet is available from the Novacon 33 registration hatch.

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	11.00 David Ashford from Bristol Spaceplanes	11.00 GUFF
	12.30 Book Auction	12.30 Art Auction
	2.00 Lunch in Zero Gravity – Space Tourism Panel	2.00 The Turn of Fate – Alternative Histories
	3.30 Guest of Honour Jon Courtenay Grimwood interviewed by Farah Mendlesohn	3.30 test the Fandom – Find your "FQ"
	5.00 The Panel of the Film of the Book 6.30 Crime and Science Fiction	5.00 Awards Ceremony
7.00 Opening Ceremony		7.00 The Arabesk Experience/Novacon Beer Tasting
7.30 Publishers be Damned!	8.00 Dark Volumes by Tony Keen	
9.00 The Illustrated Fan	10.15 Fan Fund Auction	
10.30 Friday Night Without Jonathan Ross		
	11.30 Music & Dancing with Smokie's Roadshow	

The Programme by *Dave Hicks*

Note: At time of writing, we don't expect any major changes to the programme. Last minute amendments will be announced at the opening ceremony and/or widely publicised both via notices and by the tried and tested method of a man shouting in the bar.

Friday

7:00pm: Opening Ceremony

Meet the Guest of Honour and the Committee. Last minute announcements. Followed by...

7:30pm: Publishers be Damned!

We're all familiar with the idea of the struggle of the creative process, but what about the trials and tribulations of actually getting published? What sort of health is sf publishing in? Dare anyone mention "market forces"? Our panel explores the tough journey between that brilliant idea and seeing your work on the booksellers' shelves. *Claire Brialey, Jon Courtenay Grimwood, John Jarrold, Martin Sketchley*

9:00pm: The Illustrated Fan

We've a special tribute in the artshow this year to the late Dave Mooring, former Nova Award winner and much loved for his fan art. But what *is* good fan art? Is it unique to fanzines? Does it have to be funny? Do editors appreciate the work artists put in? Do artists give editors what they want? And have you ever tried to produce a likeness of Nic Farey to a deadline? Fan artists and editors discuss. *Jae Leslie Adams, David Hicks, Sue Mason, Martin Tudor*

10:30pm: Friday Night Without Jonathan Ross

No flashy fashion or rock bands. No knee touching or Yorkshire wit. No internet smut or gay sex gags. No on-air marital bickering. In other words, none of the tricks which make every other chatshow a success. Guess we'll have to rely upon the surprise guests to drag you away from the bar, then. *Steve Green*

Saturday

11:00am: David Ashford, Special Science Guest

The man behind Bristol Spaceplanes describes plans for practical, commercial space flights that he believes could be with us within the next decade. *David Ashford*

12:30pm: Book Auction

From bargain prices for doorstop trilogies to gems which haven't been in print for years: your chance to pick up something special and unexpected. *Chris Morgan, Rog Peyton*

2:00pm: Lunch in Zero Gravity – Space Tourism
Echoing themes from this morning's science talk. How much would you pay to go above the atmosphere? What would such a trip be like and would it change you? How might it change society? *David Ashford, Julian Headlong, Ken MacLeod, Gerry Webb*

3:30pm: Jon Courtenay Grimwood
Our Guest of Honour, interviewed by *Farah Mendlesohn*

5:00pm: The Panel of the Film of the Book
We've all imagined the perfect films of our favourite novels, scripted, cast and shot them in our heads, only to be disappointed by the reality. Are the right books being adapted? Which books should be filmed? What does the film industry want from sf? *Tony Berry, Steve Green, Steve Jeffrey, Dave Lally, Ian Sorensen*

6:30 pm: Crime and Science Fiction
Noticed how often the protagonists of sf novels are on one side or the other of the law? Crime seems common in the imagined future of almost all sf writers, as something we'll never be rid of, or as too useful a tool for plot and character to ignore. We've asked the usual suspects to tell us more... *Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Andy Sawyer, Maureen Speller Kincaid, Ian Watson*

8:00pm: Dark Volumes by Tony Keen
A smaller cast than Dave Wake. Fewer songs than Ian Sorensen. Not as many robots as SMS. Less funny than Hicks and Siddall. But more fish than all of them put together. A Türkmenbashi Production. *Tony Keen and a cast of thousands*

9.30pm: *The True Knowledge of Ken MacLeod*
The Science Fiction Foundation launches its new book about the work of Ken MacLeod, joined by the man himself.

10:15pm: Fan Fund Auction
An opportunity to take home things the like of which you never knew existed. Followed by...

11.30pm: Music and Dancing with *Smokie's Roadshow*

Sunday

11:00am: GUFF
Voting for the Get Under Fan Fund (GUFF) closes just after this convention. Hear out the candidates who want to meet antipodean fandom, and the feedback of past winners (one of whom now has an Australian partner), plus an actual Australian. *Justin Ackroyd, Paul Kincaid, Joseph Nicholas; candidates Doug Bell, Pat McMurray*

12:30pm: Art Auction
Your chance to take home one or more of the fine pieces of work displayed in the artshow this weekend. *Chris Morgan, Rog Peyton*

2:00pm: The Turn of Fate - Alternative Histories
Are alternative histories the "new black" for sf writers? As sf and mainstream literature bleed into one another, more authors seem to be writing "what if?" than "could be" novels. And what the hell is "slipstream" anyway? *Jon Courtenay Grimwood, Paul Kincaid, Ken MacLeod, Charles Stross*

3:30pm: Test the Fandom – Find your "FQ"
After the success of BBC1's *Test The Nation* quizzes in establishing levels of IQ and general knowledge, we finish off with a mass participation test of your sf and fannish knowledge. What will your Fandom Quotient be? Statistically dubious conclusions will be drawn about where the brightest fans come from.

5:00pm: Awards Ceremony
The Nova Awards will be presented. Our Guest of Honour and all those who've made the convention possible will be thanked. The raffle will be drawn (a full list of all winning tickets will be displayed by the Novacon Registration Hatch, in the lobby outside the main programme). The mad fools who've agreed to do this again next year will be pointed out and jeered at.

7:00pm: The Arabesk Experience / Novacon Beer Tasting
North African cuisine, chosen by our Guest of Honour, plus many of the best bottled beers from this or any other timeline. Tickets are available all weekend from the Novacon Registration Hatch (in the lobby outside the main programme).

Dave Lally's Programme
In addition to the highlights above the Dave Lally Programme will run from 4pm on Friday until Sunday afternoon in the Dudley Room (straight down the corridor from Hotel reception, first syndicate room on your left after the stairs); see the flip chart outside for details of what Dave will have on offer.

Art Show
The Art Show will be in the Sedgley, Brierley and Netherton rooms (straight down the corridor past Hotel reception – second, third and fourth syndicate rooms on your left after the stairs).

They will be open from 4pm-6.45pm on Friday, 10am-6pm on Saturday and on Sunday from 10am until noon, closing for the Art Auction.

This year the Art Show will feature a tribute to the work of the late Dave Mooring.

CD ROM Art Show

This year the CD ROM art show is in the Bescot (down the corridor by reception turn left down the corridor pas the Gym/Swimming Pool and the Bescot is the syndicate room on your right.

It will be open from 10am on Saturday and Sunday at the times posted outside the door.

Food and Drink

Breakfast

Breakfast will be served in the Saddle Room Restaurant (next to the bar) from 8am until 10.30am on Saturday and Sunday, and 7am until 9.30am on Monday.

Lounge (No 10) Bar

Will be open from 10.30am each day and cash will be accepted in payment for drinks throughout the weekend.

Also throughout the weekend Soup & Roll for £1.50 and a selection of filled baguettes (salad & filling) at £2 each will be available from the bar.

Pots of Tea and mugs of Coffee will also be available from the bar throughout the weekend for £1.25 per serving, chocolate bars will also be on sale.

The Hotel have laid on a supply of Black Sheep Best Bitter (3.8% abv) at the special price of £2.15 per pint. In addition the Hotel have arranged a supply of draught Addlestones Cider especially for the con at £2.35 per pint.

In addition to the £2.15 per pint price for the Black Sheep, special con prices have been arranged with the Hotel for the following: Worthington and Carling £2.15 per pint; Grolsch, Caffreys and Murphys at £2.35 per pint; 10oz glasses of lemonade or coke at 75p each; orange juice and lemonade at £1.50 per pint.

Convention Menu

Evening meals will be served in the Saddle Room Restaurant; Lunch time menus in the No 10 Lounge Bar on Saturday from 12.00-14.00, with a limited version throughout Sunday afternoon.

But please note that Sunday Lunch will be available in the Saddle Room Restaurant -- a full Roast Carvery at just £6.50 per head.

Friday
From the Saddle Room Restaurant 6pm-8.00pm
Choice of Steak Pie / Vegetarian Curry / Rice/New Potatoes / Carrots/Beans / Salad Bar / Ham & Turkey Platter - £6.00 per person (for one plate & visit to servery) £1.50 extra for dessert (from the dessert "trolley")

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 10.00-11pm
Chilli & Rice £3.50 per person.

Saturday
From the No 10 Lounge Bar 12.00-2.00pm
Selection of filled baguettes with Salad £2 each
Soup & Roll £1.50 Jacket Potatoes & Fillings £2.00
Salad Bar £2.00

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 6pm-8pm
Meat Lasagne / Vegetable Cannelonni / Fries / Peas/sweetcorn . Salad Bar / Turkey & Beef Platter (for one plate & visit to servery) £1.50 extra for dessert (from the dessert "trolley")

Or

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 6pm-8pm
Salmon Steak £7.50
Rump Steak £8.50
Fillet Steak £9.50
All steaks served with chips, mushrooms and a grilled tomato.

From the Saddle Room Restaurant 10pm-11pm
Curry & Rice £3.50

Sunday
From the Saddle Room Restaurant 12.00-15.00pm
Roast Carvery Selection / Hot Vegetarian Option
(NB: one course £6.50 per head)

From the No 10 Lounge Bar All afternoon
Selection of filled baguettes with Salad £2 each
Soup & Roll £1.50

(In the King Charles Suite) 7.30pm

The Arabesk Experience food will be served in the King Charles Suite but tickets (@ £6.00 per head) must be purchased in advance from the Novacon Registration Hatch before 5pm on Sunday:

-- Chicken & mint strips
-- Grilled keftas
-- Sardines with tomato relish
-- Moroccan style vegetable curry
-- Carrots & dill
-- Okra with peppers
-- Spiced potato cakes

(From the No 10 Lounge Bar) 11pm-Midnight Bacon/Sausage Baps on sale for £1.20 each – should help absorb some of that beer!

General Information

Novacon Registration Hatch

The Novacon Registration Hatch will be open:

Friday: 4pm-6.45pm and 7.30pm-10pm for N33 Registrations ONLY.

Saturday: 10am-3pm and 4.30pm-8pm for all Novacon business.

Sunday: 10am-4.45pm for all Novacon business.

From Saturday morning onwards the hatch will be selling: Novacon 33 full memberships at £40 and day memberships at £10 Friday, £20 Saturday and £15 Sunday; a variety of Novacon merchandise and publications from previous Novacons (£2 per set for Specials and Programme Books and a few Novacon 25 T-Shirts illustrated by David A. Hardy for just £10 each!); BEER BADGES for the Beer Tasting (£5.00 per person or your 3 bottles of beer); tickets for the Arabesk Experience Food at £6 (on sale until 5pm Sunday); memberships to Novacon 34 (just £29.00 at Novacon 33, rising to £32.00 after the con); raffle tickets in aid of the RNIB's Books for the Blind Project.

The Drink...

This latest in a long series of Novacon Beer Tastings will again be using the ever-popular BYOB (bring your own beer) format. To get the ball rolling, Boston 2004 have donated money towards a selection of Boston beer, in addition to this the convention will supply a barrel of the ever popular Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild and a few interesting bottles - the rest is up to you!

To partake of the *beer*, all you need to do is bring at least *three*

bottles of your favourite British or foreign beer to the convention and check them in at the Novacon Registration Hatch when you arrive. In return you will receive a Technicolor "*Beer Badge*" which will entitle you to drink the beer at the Tasting on Sunday. Alternatively, you can also take part in the Tasting by buying a *"Beer Badge"* for £5.00 from the Novacon Registration Hatch.

All Novacon members are welcome to attend the Tasting. The convention will supply an assortment of exotic and/or unusual non-alcoholic drinks at the Tasting, which will be free to everyone, but only those with "Beer Badges" will be entitled to drink the beer and only those with "*Arabesk Experience Food Tickets*" will be able to partake of that culinary delight.

The Beer Tasting will start at 7pm on Sunday in the King Charles Suite. (Arabesk Experience Food will be served from 7.30pm only to those people who have purchased tickets at £6.00 per head, see elsewhere for details.)

[Please remember, although we have come to an arrangement with the Quality Hotel regarding the Beer Tasting, this does not extend to you bringing in your own supplies of drink elsewhere during the con. The Hotel can and will charge corkage to people smuggling food or drink into the hotel!]

The Food...

The Arabesk Experience will be served in the King Charles Suite on Sunday night from 7.30pm, but tickets (£6.00 per head) must be purchased in advance from the Novacon Hatch before 5pm on the Sunday of the con. (In addition, from 11pm-12am the hotel will be selling a late night snack of bacon/sausage baps, @ £1.20 each, to help soak up the beer!)

Dealers' Room

This is in the King Charles Suite and will be open from 4pm until 6.45pm on Friday, 10am until 6pm Saturday and 10am until 4pm on Sunday. Times are subject to change.

Gophers

If you ***have*** volunteered to be a gopher or if you ***wish*** to volunteer please report to Cat Coast the Ops Room (the Hatherton, up the stairs, which are down the corridor from Hotel reception).

R.N.I.B. Raffle

If you wish to purchase tickets for the annual raffle in aid of RNIB's Books for the Blind Project, Anne Woodford will be selling them around the con, but tickets will also be available from the Novacon Registration

Hatch -- Saturday onwards. In a change from established tradition, prizes will ***not*** be given out as the draw is made at the Award Ceremony. Instead prizes will be available for collection from a table set up in the Oliver Cromwell suite ***after*** the ceremony and winning numbers will be posted on the flip chart near the Novacon Registration Hatch.

We have a wide variety of prizes, which will be listed on the flip chart near the Novacon Registration Hatch from Saturday onwards.

The Parents Co-Operative

The Children's Play Room is situated in the Ashmore Room (down the corridor past Hotel receptions, all the way past the Art Show Rooms, on the corner). Please address all queries to Richard Standage or Helena Bowles.

Operations

As we are sure you are aware Novacon, like most conventions in Britain, is run by volunteers and we can't have too many of them! So if you are willing to help out at the convention -- anything from moving chairs to helping with tech ops or working on the programme, please contact Cat Coast, in the Ops Room.

Operations will be in the Hatherton Room, like last year we shall be operating a ~~fascist~~ 'tidy' Ops Room policy, with designated areas for stuff to be stored and no non-essential furniture (or people). However, you will still be able to leave coats and bags in Ops on request and **at your own risk**.

No Smoking

Please refrain from smoking in the Programme & Dealers Rooms, Art Show, and in other designated areas. Please note that the *smoking* area of the Bar is to the left of the Main Entrance, facing Reception.

Dire Warnings

Please remember that the Quality Hotel is in the business of selling accommodation, drink and food for profit. Neither the management of the Quality Hotel nor the Novacon committee will approve of people "crashing" in rooms they haven't paid for, and/or smuggling food/drink into the hotel. The Novacon committee will obviously support the hotel in any dispute with members of Novacon caught "crashing" and/or "smuggling".

We would also like to take this opportunity to warn concerned parents of younger readers that this year's special booklet by our Guest

of Honour contains scenes which they may wish to protect their delicate offspring from reading. For the rest of you... read it and find out.

Badges

As we have (again) failed to fill the hotel there will be non-convention guests in the Hotel. It is therefore essential that you wear your con badge AT ALL TIMES! If you do not you may be refused service in the con bars and food from the con menu. You WILL be challenged by our own security staff and prevented from entering function spaces and Hotel Staff may challenge anyone not wearing a badge.

Check In & Out

Check-in time is from 2pm and check-out by 11am on the day of departure. (Bedrooms will be cleaned between 10am and 3pm).

Left Luggage

Luggage can be left in the Hatherton Room (upstairs).

Duplicate Room Keys

We have made arrangements with the Hotel so that if you are sharing a room and require a key each you should be able to get one this year. (Unfortunately if you are in one of the 30 executive suites you cannot have a key each as they have a different locks to the other rooms in the Hotel.)

However, if you require a key each you should have notified the Hotel of this on arrival. You may not be able to change your mind later because the Hotel will have programmed 100 rooms to accept duplicate key sets before we arrive. This is a time-consuming process and there are a limited number of these duplicate key sets available – the Hotel does not normally use them and is buying them in especially for Novacon.

If you do have a key each please don't lose them! If you lose your key two new keys will be need to be issued immediately as your sharer's key won't work after you've used your new key! As there are limited quantities of these duplicate keys available you may find that if you've lost your key the Hotel will be forced to reprogram the lock on your room to take their standard single key system again.

If you do not have a key each you can still easily gain access to your room by either tracking down your sharer or by asking Hotel Reception to let you in with a master, but please don't get them doing this all the time. The hotel will require you to produce your keycard as proof that it is your room, so please ensure you carry it.

Cashpoints/Banks
The nearest are:
Woolwich cashpoint in Spar (24 hour shop) which also offers a cashback facility on purchases, Wolverhampton Road, Willenhall.
Abbey National/Link, Park Street, Walsall.
Lloyds/TSB, New Road, Willenhall (opposite J D Wetherspoons).
Lloyds/TSB, Park Street, Walsall.
HSBC, New Road, Willenhall (opposite J D Wetherspoons).
HSBC, St. Paul's Square (facing the steps from the Bus Station).
Halifax, Bridge Street, Walsall.
National Westminster, Park Street, Walsall.
Nationwide/Link, Bridge Street, Walsall.

Post Office
Darwall Street in Walsall, near the Bus station.

Pharmacy
Chemist on Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Bentley – see foot map.
Boots the Chemist, Park Street, Walsall.

Plane/Bus/Train
Flight information: 0121-767-5511.
Local Bus/Rail: Centro Hotline on 0121-200-2700.
Rail National enquiries: 08457-484950.

How to get to Walsall?
The 529 to Walsall's new £4.2 million "flying saucer" bus station -- just a five minute journey away (at Stand M). The 529 was the first major route in the country to be completely serviced by gas powered vehicles (using Compressed Natural Gas) and most of the buses on the route are wheelchair-friendly, easy access buses with "kneeling suspension". These run every 6 minutes throughout the day and every 20 minutes during the evening (and Sunday). Timetables are available from the Novacon registration desk.

Taxis
A1 Rosehill, Willenhall, *01902-606090 or 633337*
AJK Cars, Walsall, 01922-640630
Bentley Cars, 01902-711121
Walsall TOA Taxis, 01922-642020 or 723623

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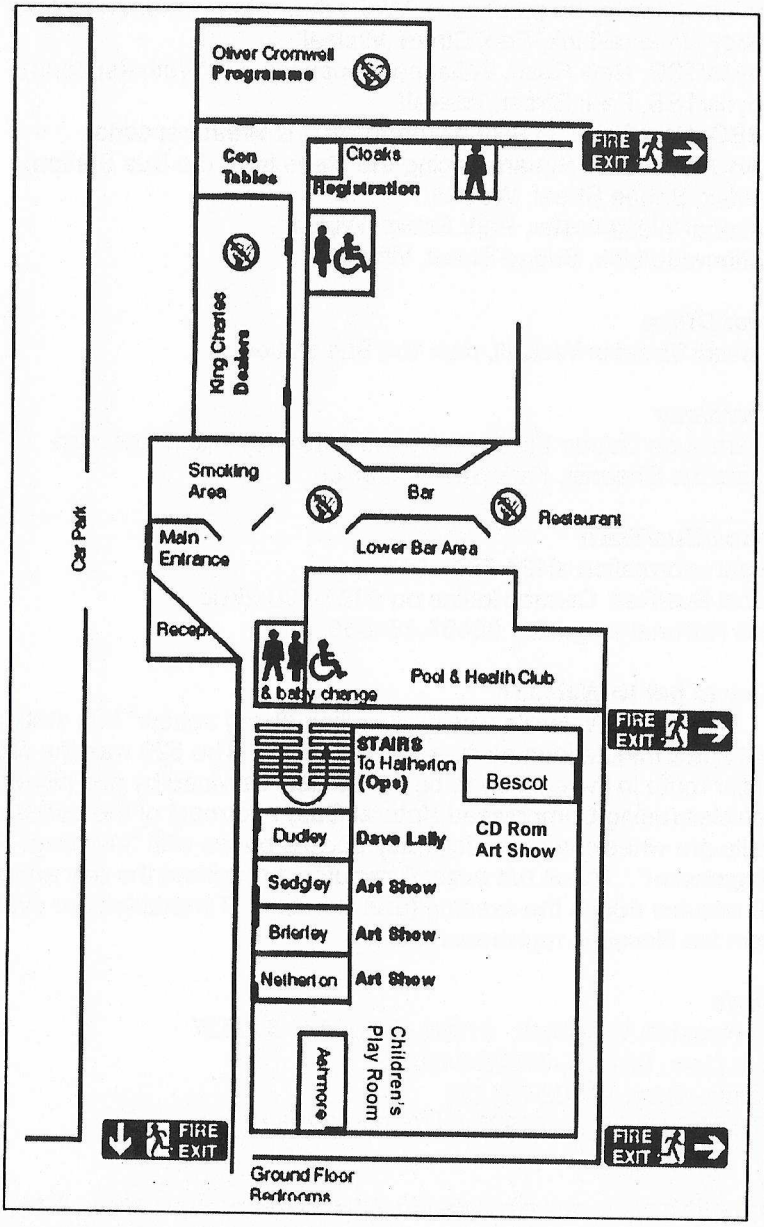
Oliver Cromwell
Programme
Con
Tables
Cloaks
Registration
FIRE
EXIT
King Charles
Dealers
Smoking
Area
Bar
Restaurant
Main
Entrance
Lower Bar Area
Car Park
Recep
& baby change
Pool & Health Club
FIRE
EXIT
STAIRS
To Hatherton
(Ops)
Bescot
Dudley
Dave Lally
CD Rom
Art Show
Sedgley
Art Show
Brierley
Art Show
Netherton
Art Show
Ashmore
Children's
Play Room
FIRE
EXIT
FIRE
EXIT
Ground Floor
Bedrooms